

June 28, 2005

Dear Friend:

As you may know, on Thursday and Friday of last week, the House of Representatives considered, and ultimately passed, the appropriations bill, known as the Labor/HHS bill, that provides funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) is funded through this appropriations bill, and in the legislation sent to the floor from Committee, CPB's funding was reduced by 25%, from \$400 million to \$300 million.

The broadcasting services offered by CPB are very important. For decades, shows such as "Sesame Street," "American Experience," and "Masterpiece Theater," have provided young and old alike with quality, educational programming. That is why I was extremely pleased that Representatives Dave Obey (WI), Nita Lowey (NY), and Jim Leach (IA) introduced an amendment on the floor to eliminate the reduction of funds for CPB. The amendment passed by a vote of 284 - 140 and will restore funding for fiscal year 2006 to \$400 million.

I strongly support this amendment and would have voted in favor of it had I been present. I take great pride in my record of taking difficult votes and have missed very few votes during my time in Congress. Although the Labor/HHS bill is important, I missed these votes because I joined Senator Domenici, Senator Bingaman, and Governor Richardson at a hearing in Clovis on the Department of Defense's (DoD) recommendation to close Cannon Air Force Base. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission was holding the hearing as part of the BRAC process, which was established to realign or close military installations that are believed to be no longer needed for our nation's defense. The DoD's recommendation to close Cannon is a mistake, and I believe it was important to show support for our state and fight to keep Cannon open.

Please be assured that I will continue to work to restore funding for the CPB as the Labor/HHS bill proceeds through the legislative process. Also, please feel free to contact me regarding concerns on any federal issue. You may visit my website at [www.tomudall.house.gov](http://www.tomudall.house.gov) for more information.

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall  
Member of Congress